

# MONTH *of the* MILITARY CHILD *guide for schools in Moray*

Connect

Support

Celebrate

# APRIL *is* MONTH *of the* MILITARY CHILD

## *What is it?*

Every April, we celebrate the Month of the Military Child, a time to recognise and appreciate the unique strengths of children and young people from Armed Forces families. Their resilience, adaptability and courage shine through as they navigate the opportunities and challenges that come with military life.

## *Why the Dandelion?*

The dandelion symbolises military children because it can thrive anywhere, just like them. Its seeds travel far, taking root and blooming wherever they land. This reflects the strength and adaptability shown by children from Armed Forces families.

## *What Does Purple Represent?*

Purple symbolises the blending of the colours of all service branches. It's a unifying colour that reflects the strength, resilience and shared experiences of Armed Forces families.

# MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD

... is more than a date in the calendar. It's a meaningful opportunity to *recognise* and *better understand* the *unique experiences* of military children.

Support is in place year-round in Moray's schools, but April offers a chance to *deepen awareness*, and *reflect* on how we continue to *include* and *value* children and young people from Armed Forces families across our communities.

When we get it right for these children, we help create the conditions for all children to *thrive*.

## Connect

Building understanding and meaningful relationships.

## Support

Promoting emotional wellbeing and helping pupils manage change

## Celebrate

Shine a spotlight on identity, experience and community

More than a moment,  
building understanding  
and support all year round.

# AN *inclusive* MONTH FOR EVERY SCHOOL

Month of the Military Child is for every school, whether you have none, some or many children and young people from Armed Forces families.

It's a meaningful opportunity to explore different experiences, build connections and strengthen a sense of belonging across the whole school community.

## *Why it matters*

- ✓ Recognises and values children from Armed Forces families
- ✓ Builds understanding of different life journeys and experiences
- ✓ Strengthens friendships and helps children understand how to support one another through change
- ✓ Opens up positive conversations about belonging, change and community

## *Links*

- 📖 UNCRC Articles 12 & 13: Children have the right to share their views and experiences
- 📖 HGIOS4 QI 3.1 & 2.4: Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion, with a focus on removing barriers and providing personalised support where needed
- 🌱 GIRFEC: Ensuring every child is nurtured, included and respected
- 🎓 CfE: Supports the development of responsible citizens who value diversity, respect others, and understand different perspectives and experiences

How will your school

Connect

,

Support

&

Celebrate

**MONTH** of the  
**MILITARY CHILD?**

# Connect

*Building understanding and  
meaningful relationships*

- 🗨️ **STORY SHARING PROJECTS**  
*Create opportunities for pupils to share their experiences and listen to others.*
- 🏫 **WHOLE-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES**  
*Help the whole school learn more and understand what life can be like for Armed Forces families.*
- 🗣️ **INCLUDE ARMED FORCES VOICES IN SCHOOL LIFE**  
*Involve children and young people from military families in pupil councils, and ensure their families are represented on parent councils.*
- 🌻 **DANDELION-THEMED CRAFTS OR LESSONS**  
*Use creative activities to start conversations about strength, change and what it means to belong.*
- 🌍 **WORLD MAP ACTIVITY**  
*Mark places military children have lived or where parents have worked, building global awareness and to spark discussions.*
- 🏠 **INVITE SERVING PARENTS IN**  
*Hear directly from Armed Forces families to build awareness about the various roles in the Armed Forces, their experiences and build connections.*
- 🖋️ **NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE'S 'MEMORIES' COMPETITION**  
*Encourage reflection and storytelling through art, poetry or writing.*

# Support

*Promoting emotional wellbeing and helping pupils manage change*

 **MINDFULNESS SESSIONS**

*Support mental health during times of change by helping children build their own bank of calming strategies they can return to when needed.*

 **JOURNALING OR REFLECTIVE WRITING**

*Create space for children to process thoughts and emotions safely.*

 **CREATE A WELLBEING TOOLKIT**

*Involve pupils in building personalised banks of strategies they can use year-round.*

 **DANDELION SONG BY NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE**

*Use music as a way to explore strength and shared experience.*

 **ACTIVITIES EXPLORING CHANGE**

*Encourage parents to share their roles and experiences to help others learn more about military life and build connections.*

# Celebrate

*Shine a spotlight on identity, experience and community*

**♥ PURPLE UP! DAY ON THE LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL**

*Invite everyone to wear purple and show visible support across your school.*

**🎤 WHOLE-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES OR EVENTS**

*Bring the school community together to sing, share stories and showcase pupils' talents.*

**🖼️ CREATIVE DISPLAYS**

*Share pupils' artwork, writing or poetry throughout your setting.*

**🏆 MOTMC COMPETITIONS**

*Take part in national projects that highlight children's creativity and experiences.*



# Purple Up

*A visible show of support and celebration across Moray*



- ♥ WEAR PURPLE**  
*Invite pupils and staff to wear purple or add a splash of it to their outfits to show support.*
- 🍰 HOST A BAKE SALE**  
*Raise money for an Armed Forces charity while bringing the school community together.*
- 🎤 HOLD A CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY**  
*Use the day to sing together, share creative work and highlight the voices of military children.*
- 🖼️ CREATE THEMED DISPLAYS**  
*Showcase artwork, writing or reflections inspired by military life or the dandelion flower.*
- 👪 GET FAMILIES INVOLVED**  
*Invite Forces families to join the day's activities and share in the celebration.*

# RESOURCES *and* COMPETITIONS



# Your Dandelion Project Hub

April is a great time to raise awareness of the support available for Armed Forces families, and for schools supporting their children and young people.

**Bookmark it**, share it and explore what's available. You can also **sign up** to The Dandelion Drop, a weekly bulletin for practitioners filled with updates and ideas. To request printed copies of key resources for your school reception or office, just **get in touch**.



## Quick Links



[GUIDE FOR PARENTS](#)



[DEPLOYMENT FORM](#)



[MORAY COUNCIL'S ARMED FORCES FAMILIES RESOURCE HUB](#)

## The Dandelion Drop

### FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN

• SEEDS OF SUPPORT •

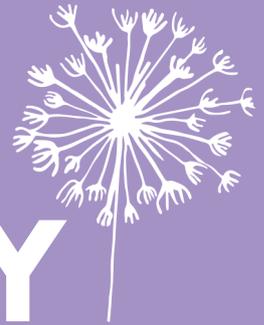
[click to subscribe](#)

## Promotional Materials for #MotMC

- 👉 Logo: Ideal for newsletters, displays, and digital platforms
- 🌐 Web Banner: Perfect for websites, social media, or email footers
- 📣 Poster Template: Customisable to promote any community event
- 📱 Content Toolkit: Sample posts, hashtags and captions to help highlight your school or setting's involvement
- 🎨 A range of graphics and ready-to-use content is also available to help showcase everything happening in your setting this April.
- ✅ Download these resources [here](#) – scroll down to Month of the Military Child.
- 📄 Details about the competition can be found on the next page.



# MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD *in Moray* COMPETITION



Design a #MotMC cape showing your *superpower!*

## WHO CAN ENTER?

Any child or young person from a primary or secondary school in Moray.

## DEADLINE:

Friday 1 May 2026

## THEME:

We are Superheroes!

## HOW TO ENTER:

Paper copies are preferred. Schools can send completed templates to the Dandelion Project via internal mail to HQ. If completing outside of school, please return your finished design to your school, or if needed, email a scanned copy to [DandelionProject@moray.gov.uk](mailto:DandelionProject@moray.gov.uk).

## WHAT'S UP FOR GRABS?

A bag full of Dandelion Project goodies, including a frisbee, a Dandelion Teddy Bear and lots more!

Spark your *creativity* this Month of the Military Child!

Supported by:



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#MotMC



DANDELION  
PROJECT MORAY



# MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD *in Moray* COMPETITION

## Your details:

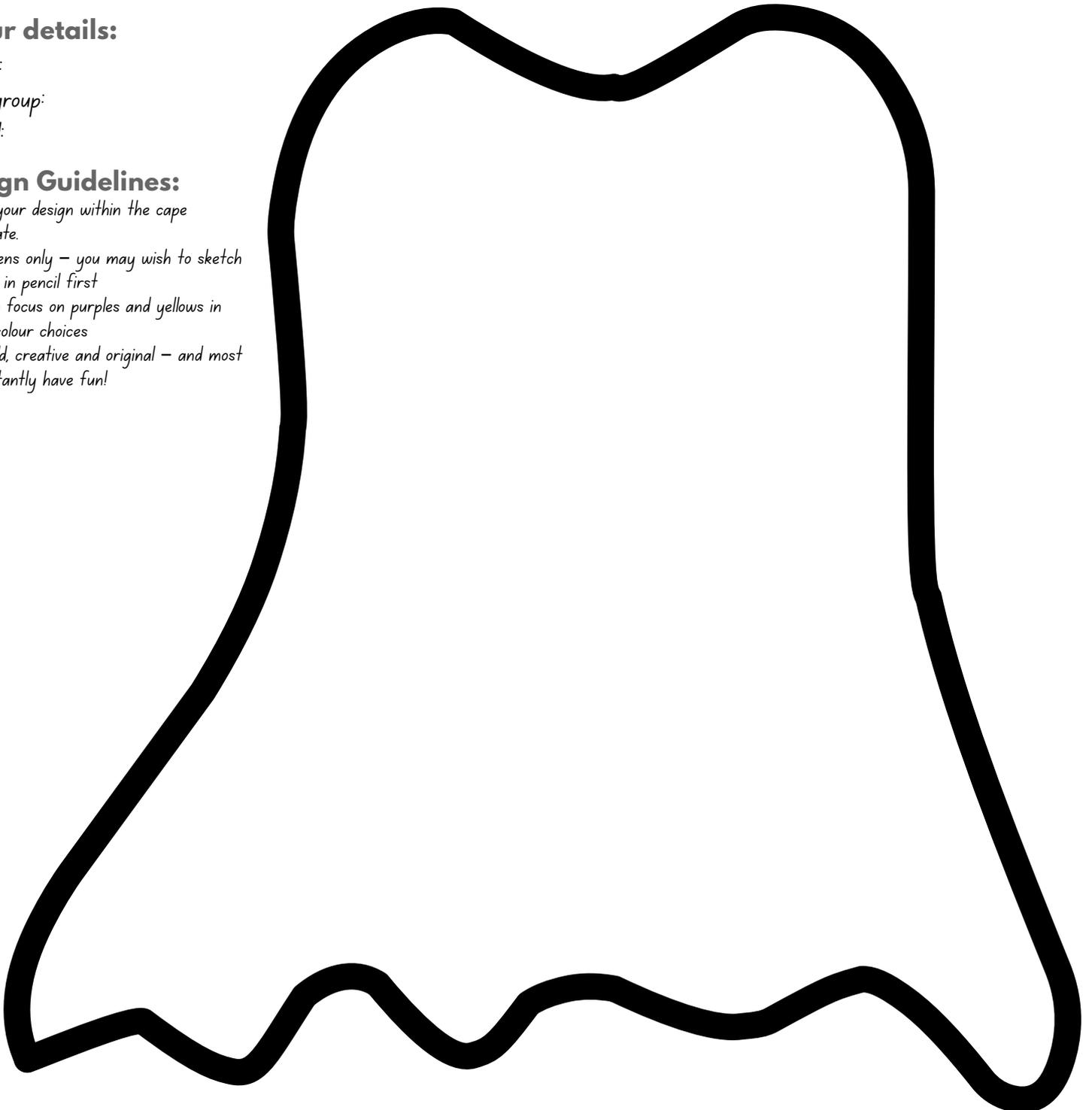
Name:

Year group:

School:

## Design Guidelines:

- Keep your design within the cape template.
- Use pens only – you may wish to sketch lightly in pencil first
- Try to focus on purples and yellows in your colour choices
- Be bold, creative and original – and most importantly have fun!



# MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



Supporting armed forces children & young people



Activity Sheets

Strengths Paperchain Activity

Assembly Pack, planner and slides!





## Celebrating Military Children

Each April, we get to recognise the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces family. NSI provides special opportunities for military children to have their voices heard. Learn more below or [click this link](#) for FREE Month of the Military Child resources! See 3 ways to get involved below!

### ENTER THE COMPETITION!

3 Categories:  
Poetry - Art - Best School Display  
**1 APRIL - 2 MAY**



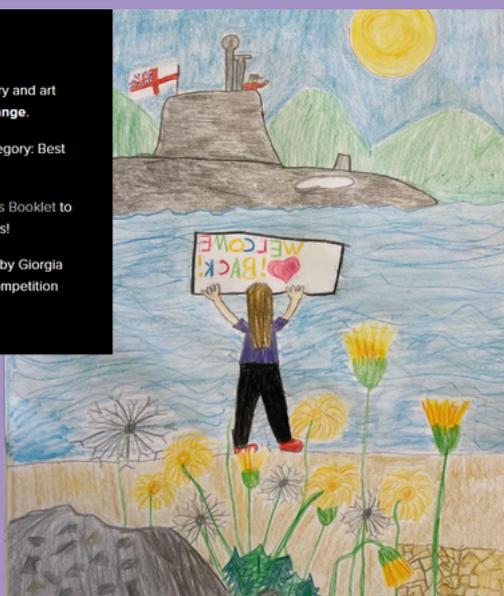
### Competition

The theme of the 2026 poetry and art competition is: **Winds of Change**.

There is a special bonus category: Best Display by a school/group.

Please find the 2025 Winners Booklet to see last year's winning pieces!

My memory of Homecoming by Giorgia G. (8-11) Royal Navy, 2025 Competition Winner



### WINDS OF CHANGE

Poetry & Art Competition

1 APR - 1 MAY

Prizes: Poetry and Art: £25 Amazon Card and Goodie Bag

Open to young people 8-18 years old

All entrants receive a personalised certificate

Winners are invited to London for a special award ceremony and a trip to the Tower of London



NEVERSUCHINNOENCE.COM/MONTH-OF-THE-MILITARY-CHILD



### WINDS OF CHANGE

Best School Display

1 APR - 1 MAY



Design a display on the theme Winds of Change!

All entrants receive a personalised certificate

Winner receives a £250 Book Voucher

Open to all ages

See last year's winner from SHAPE!



NEVERSUCHINNOENCE.COM/MONTH-OF-THE-MILITARY-CHILD





# Month of the Military Child

CLICK  
HERE!

## INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FORM

(BEST FOR  
INDIVIDUALS)



CLICK  
HERE!

## MULTIPLE ENTRY FORM

SEVERAL ENTRIES BY  
INDIVIDUALS

(BEST FOR SCHOOLS  
AND GROUPS)



CLICK  
HERE!

## BEST SCHOOL DISPLAY ENTRY FORM



## Competition Prizes!

Each winner will receive a £25 Amazon Gift Voucher (donated by the Armed Forces Education Trust) and a goodie bag!

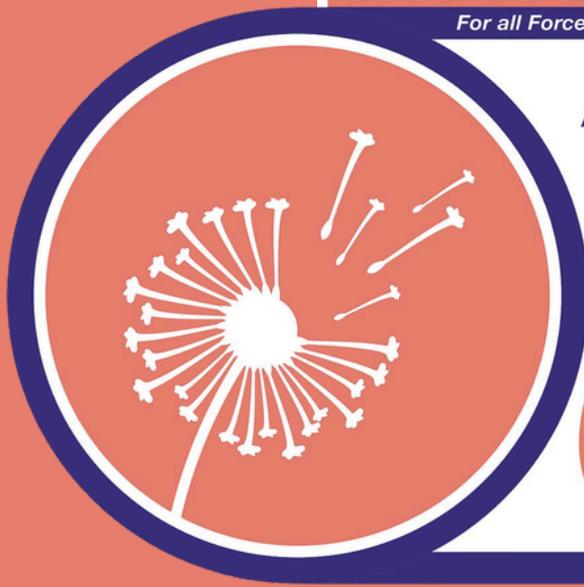
One lucky school will receive a £250 Book Grant (donated by the Armed Forces Education Trust!)

Winners will be invited to London in June for a special presentation of their work.

All participants will receive a personalised certificate of commendation.



ARMED FORCES  
EDUCATION  
TRUST



# MONTH OF THE Military CHILD

Click [here](#) to visit the website and access these free resources.



MOTMC - Dandelion Poem



MOTMC At Home Dandelion & Lemon Biscuits



MOTMC School Pack



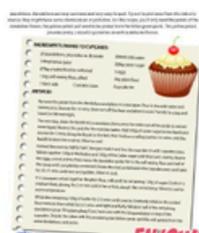
MOTMC At Home Dandelion Fingerprint Art



MOTMC At Home Dandelion Colouring



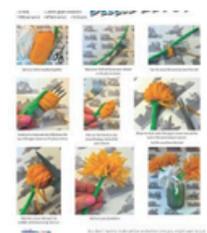
MOTMC At Home Dandelion Playdough



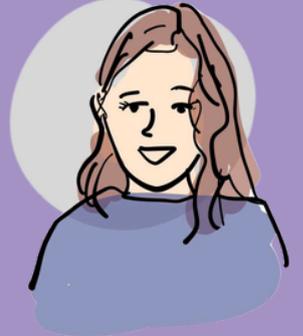
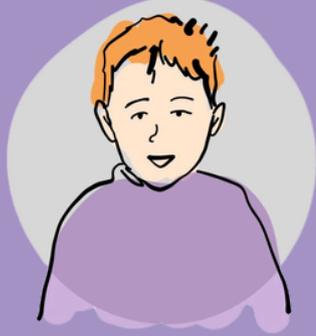
MOTMC At Home Dandelion Cupcakes



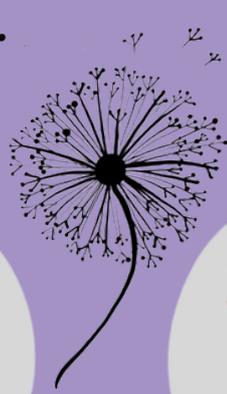
MOTMC At Home Dandelion Mask



MOTMC At Home Pom Pom Dandelion Craft

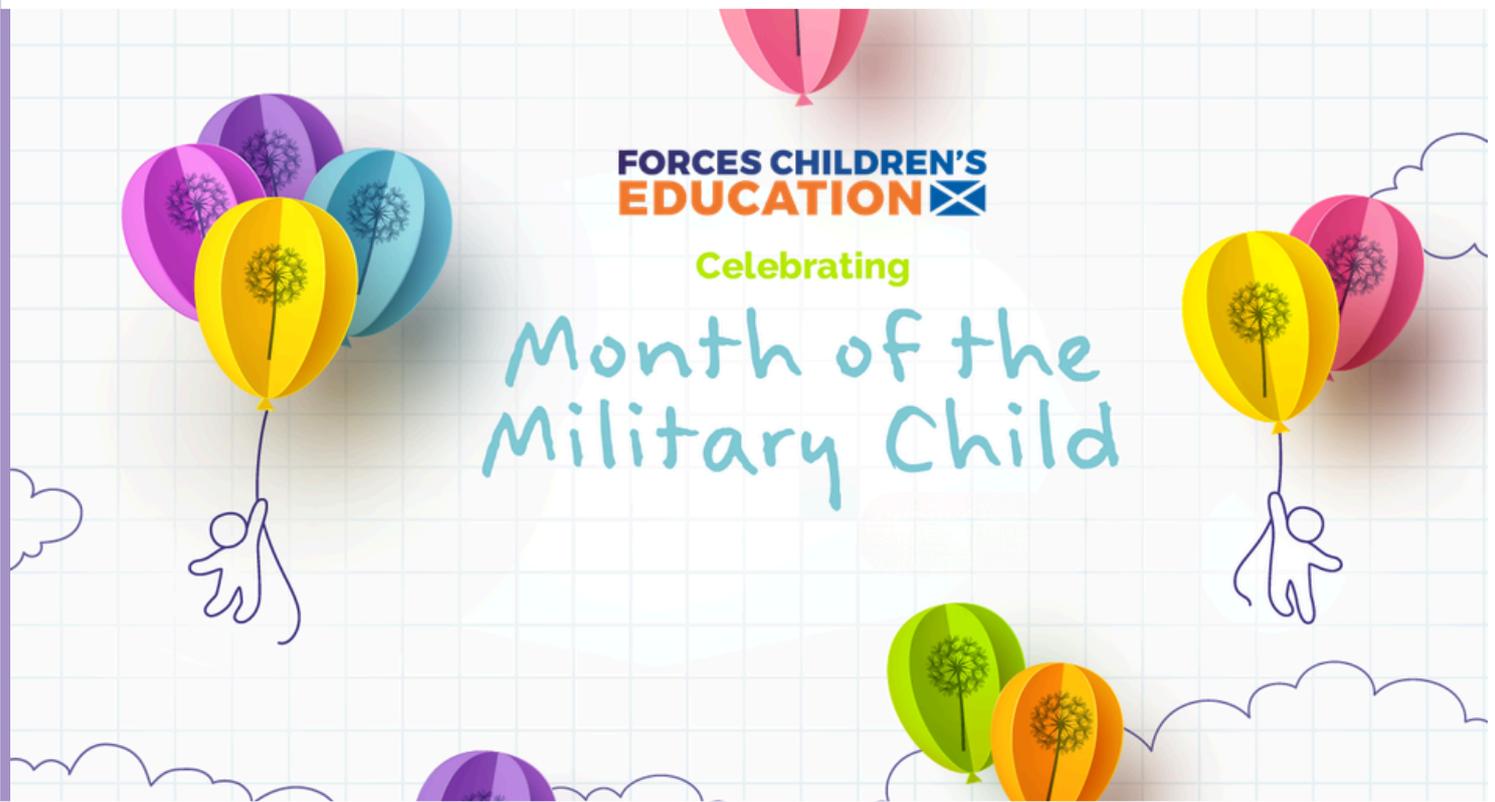


"Military Children bloom wherever the Wind carries them."



**APRIL** IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD.

More ways to get involved



the MOD Education  
Policy Team,



**Month  
of the  
Military  
Child**

Share your celebrations on socials!

Tag @DandelionProjectMoray & use

**#MOTMC**

# DANDELIN

PROJECT MORAY



## MONTH *of the* MILITARY CHILD

Connect

Support

Celebrate



[DandelionProject@moray.gov.uk](mailto:DandelionProject@moray.gov.uk)



[Dandelion Project Moray](#)



[moray.gov.uk/ArmedForcesFamilies](http://moray.gov.uk/ArmedForcesFamilies)



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